

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 20, 2006

The City Council Finance Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 5:35 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 20th day of April, 2006, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Finance Committee Member Stawicki and Chairman Cubberley

ABSENT: Member Rosenthal

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Mark Daniels, Utilities Engineer
Mr. Anthony Francisco, Finance Director
Mr. Brad Gambill, City Manager
Ms. Brenda Hall, Deputy City Clerk
Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities
Councilmember Rachel Butler
Councilmember David Hopper
Councilmember-Elect Dan Quinn
Ms. Carol Cole, The Norman Transcript

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE 1/2 CENT SALES TAX ELECTION.

Chairman Cubberley said Council has received their Preliminary FYE 2007 Budget and are concerned about Staffing levels and other needs. He said the 1/2 cent sales tax dedicated for wastewater expires in September and with that in mind, he asked for guidance from other Councilmembers as to whether or not they would be supportive of a new 1/2 cent sales tax for General Fund purposes. He asked the City Manager to identify needs and priorities. City Manager Gambill said he has reviewed staffing needs and highlighted his priorities over a three year period. Priorities are public safety, police and fire; code compliance; building inspectors; park maintenance; and public works. He said in year one 28 positions would be added at a cost of \$1,706,965 leaving approximately \$5 million for reserves, 24 positions added in year two at a cost of \$3,200,000 leaving approximately \$3.8 million for reserves, and 22 positions added in year three at a cost of \$5 million leaving \$2.3 million for reserves. He said the added positions will increase public safety and add services for the citizens.

Chairman Cubberley said two programs he would like to see come back are the Beautification Program and Community Policing Program.

Committee Members discussed a proposed ordinance which establishes a Reserve Fund for emergencies and sets the guidelines for the fund.

Committee Members felt the City Manager's priorities were a good starting point and they will be discussed with the remainder of Council during its Study Session on April 27, 2006.

Items submitted for the record

1. Draft ordinance

DISCUSSION REGARDING WATER METER CONNECTION FEE SURVEY.

The Finance Committee previously reviewed the current water meter connection fees and proposed increases. Staff presented an increase from \$550 to \$850 for 3/4 inch water meter which was further increased to \$975 after several discussions by the Finance Committee. City Council met in Conference on February 14, 2006, and Councilmember Hopper expressed concerns with submitting it for Council's consideration prior to having a full discussion in a study session format. The item was further discussed in City Council's Study Session on February 21, 2006, and Mr. Trey Bates, representing Norman developers, asked that the Council look at fees in a global sense and how rates would

affect the building industry. The Mayor asked that the Finance Committee provide additional study with a survey of what other Cities charge. In accordance therewith, Mr. Anthony Francisco, Finance Director, highlighted a comparison of building permit, utility, and park land fees assessed to builders/developers with Norman and other communities in the metro area as well Texas and Kansas. Norman's fees are currently higher than other cities in the metro area for 2,400 square foot home and higher than most cities for a 1,200 square foot home with the exception of Edmond. Committee Members felt increasing the connection fee for a 3/4 inch meter from \$550 to \$850 was more comparable. The ordinance will be submitted for Council's consideration in the near future.

Items submitted for the record

1. Memorandum dated April 6, 2006, from Anthony Francisco, Finance Director, to Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
2. Building permit survey dated March 2006
3. Residential water, wastewater, and sanitation charges survey dated April 2006

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REVENUE EXPENDITURE REPORT.

Finance Committee Members reviewed the Summary of Major Fund Revenue Sources and Expenditures Report as of March 31, 2006

Items submitted for the record

1. Summary of Major Funds-General; Capital; Westwood; Water; Wastewater; Sewer Maintenance; New Development Excise; Sewer Sales Tax; and Sanitation Fund Revenue Sources vs. Budget, FYE 2006 as of March 31, 2006

DISCUSSION REGARDING REPORT ON OPEN POSITIONS.

Finance Committee Members reviewed positions authorized to be filled, open positions, and recently filled positions. No further action was recommended at this time.

Items submitted for the record

1. City of Norman/Human Resources Department Recruitment and Selection Report dated April 12, 2006

VIDEO STREAMING.

Due to time constraints and funding limitations this item will be postponed indefinitely.

REVERSE 911.

Due to time constraints and funding limitations this item will be postponed indefinitely.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.